

MUNNI'S

ROOFTOP SCHOOL

GROWN-UP'S GUIDE



WONDERBOOKS



Some helpful things to know



Why is Munni's house so small that she has to sleep outside?

Munni belongs to a community called 'Musahar', who are treated like they are not important. In the local language of Bhojpuri, 'Musahar' means 'rat eaters'.

In India's complex caste system, the Musahar are seen as being without any caste. This means they face discrimination and live in extremely bad conditions. Many live in places without any roads, clean water, or schools. It's very difficult for families like Munni's to get jobs or earn much money to look after their sons and daughters. That means many children like Munni are forced to marry before they're ready.



What is Munni doing now?

Munni is still teaching in her community. These days she often has 20 women in her class – as well as many of their babies and children! Munni's message to other girls is clear: "If we have education then we must give it to those women, or our brothers and sisters, who are illiterate."

She is now dreaming of going to university and one day becoming a doctor.

How have Munni and Save the Children worked together?

By donating to Save the Children you help us pay for the things that help kids like Munni stay safe, healthy and in school.

Our community workers helped Munni's mother convince her grandpa and father to delay her arranged marriage and allow Munni to go to school instead. When she decided to set up her school, Save the Children supplied Munni with paper, pencils and all the support she needed to get started!

For more information about the caste system in India, visit <https://bitlylink.com/bbcindia>



**“I started
teaching them
the basic alphabet”**

Munni, 16, India

Activity

Younger children:

Draw your special classroom. What would you teach people?
Who would you invite?

Older children:

Can you draw a map of the book's setting? Where is Mr Kumar's pharmacy, the school, Grandma's hospital and Munni's rooftop?
What other things are in the area?

Write a postcard to yourself as if you were Munni. What kind of things might she tell you?



To find out more about children who inspire stories like Wonderbooks, visit [savethechildren.org.uk](https://www.savethechildren.org.uk)



Tips for reading this book with your child

Before you read

Look at the cover together
Ask: What do you think this book might be about?

While you read

Start each page with 'What can you see?' to give the child reader space to respond freely.

After reading

What parts made you happy or sad?
Why do you think Munni decided to teach other women to read?
What have you learnt about life for girls like Munni?
What would you ask Munni if you could?

Learn to speak Maithili

Maithili is one of the five languages spoken in Bihar where Munni lives. Why not give it a try!

Hello Halchal ki chho

What's your name? Ahake naan kathi vele?

My name is (your name) Hamar naam (your name) chhi

The other dialects spoken in Bihar are Bhojpuri, Magahi, Angika and Vajjika.



If you have any questions about Wonderbooks, email us at wonderbooks@savethechildren.org.uk

Or contact Supporter Care:
Telephone +44 (0)20 7012 6400
Fax +44 (0)20 7012 6963
savethechildren.org.uk

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Registered office:
1 St John's Lane,
London,
EC1M 4AR.



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